

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

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R 201416Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 289

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ALLON KNESSET STATEMENT ON AVINERI APPOINTMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS OFFICIAL GOI TEXT OF EXCERPTS FROM STATEMENT MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON TO THE KNESSET ON FEBRUARY 18 REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR SHLOMO AVINERI AS MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE INCUMBENT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY MR. AVRAHAM KIDRON, HAVING SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED HIS TENURE I RESOLVED TO PROPOSE TO THE CABINET TO APPOINT PROFESSOR AVINERI TO THIS POST--PRIMARILY AND ABOVE ALL, BECAUSE OF HIS EXCELLENT QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POST...

3. AS FOR THE SO-CALLED POLITICAL CONTENTION VOICED AGAINST THE APPOINTMENT, THIS IS UTTERLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. ADMITTEDLY, PROFESSOR AVINERI HAS POLITICAL VIEWS OF HIS OWN--ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN DISTORTED IN NO SMALL M

EASURE BY THE OPPONENTS OF THESE VIEWS. IT IS ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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TRUE THAT AS AN INDEPENDENT THINKER HE GAVE PUBLIC

EXPRESSION TO HIS VIEWS--WHICH HE IS WELL QUALIFIED TO DO. MOREOVER, IT IS TRUE THAT HIS VIEWS ARE NOT ABSOLUTELY IDENTICAL WITH MINE, AND I ASSUME THAT NOT ALL MY VIEWS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM--ALTHOUGH OUR VIEWS DO HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. BUT THERE IS NO TRUTH IN THE ALLEGATION THAT SHLOMO AVINERI'S APPOINTMENT OSTENSIBLY INDICATES A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. THERE IS NO VESTIGE OF TRUTH IN THE UTTERANCE THAT THIS APPOINTMENT OSTENSIBLY PROVIDES A SIGNAL TO OUTSIDE ELEMENTS TO PRESSURE ISRAEL INTO AGREEING TO A THIRD PALESTINIAN STATE--AS ALLEGED, WITHOUT FOUNDATION, BY KNESSET MEMBER ARENS. APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE POST OF FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR-GENERAL NOTWITHSTANDING--AND I AM PLEASED THAT SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE IS SUDDENLY ATTACHED TO THIS FUNCTION--ISRAEL'S POLICY IS DETERMINED AT CABINET LEVEL, AND BY NONE OTHER.

4. IN THE TUMULT OF THE ASSAULT ON THE APPOINTMENT, PROF. AVINERI'S VIEWS HAVE--AS AFOREMENTIONED BEEN DISTORTED, WHETHER INNOCENTLY OR NOT SO INNOCENTLY. FOR INSTANCE, IN THAT MUCH PUBLICIZED RADIO INTERVIEW ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO, WHEN PROF. AVINERI SPOKE OF THE FATE OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP, HE ALSO SPOKE OF "SOME SORT OF LINK WITH JORDAN." THESE WORDS, FOR SOME REASONS, WERE OMITTED FROM THE ASSAILANTS' STATEMENTS. STRICTLY SPEAKING, ANYONE SINCERELY EXAMINING AVINERI'S VIEWS AS A WHOLE--AS WORDED BY HIM--WILL DISCOVER THAT THESE VIEWS DO NOT CONTRADICT THE VIEWS OF CERTAIN WELL-KNOWN PERSONAGES IN THE LIKUD ITSELF. IT BEARS RECALLING THAT DURING THE VERY TENURE OF THE PRESENT KNESSET, SUCH PERSONAGES AS TEL AVIV MAYOR SHLOMO LAHAT, RAMAT-GAN MAYOR DR. ISRAEL PELED AND KNESSET MEMBERS ABRAMOV AND FLUMIN APPENDED THEIR SIGNATURE TO--HEAVEN FORFEND--"DOVISH"--OR TO QUOTE KNESSET MEMBER LANDAU, "PALESTINIST" MANIFESTOS. NOT TO MENTION EZER WEIXMAN'S EXPRESSIONS. END TEXT.

5. OFFICIAL GOI TEXT THEN PARAPHRASES ALLON AS FOLLOWS: MR. ALLON WENT ON TO CASTIGATE THE TENDENCY "WHICH HAD TAKEN ROOT IN ISRAEL," OF RAISING A "GRAND FURORE
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WHEN ENCOUNTERING MODERATE VIEWS OF PERSONS CONSIDERED TO HOLD SUCH VIEWS--AS OPPOSED TO THE "UTTER SILENCE" OBTAINING IN THE CASE OF MORE INFLEXIBLE POLITICAL VIEWS AND THOSE HOLDING THEM.

6. ALLON ENDED HIS STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: SHLOMO AVINERI'S APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE

FOREIGN MINISTRY IS THE APPOINTMENT OF THE RIGHT PERSON TO THE
RIGHT POST. THERE IS NO SIGNALLING THEREIN TO OUTSIDE ELEMENTS.
END TEXT.
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